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IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Appl. No. 09/518,624 Confirmation No. 5802  
Applicant Donald B. Peddicord, et al  
Filed March 3, 2000  
TC/A.U. 1744  
Examiner Krisanne Marie Thornton  
For SALT PLATFORM WITH HUB HAVING LOCKING ELEMENT

Docket No. 11162/2001  
Customer No. 24349

Commissioner for Patents  
PO Box 1450  
Alexandria, VA. 22313-1450

**AMENDMENT**

Sir:

<b>CERTIFICATE OF MAILING</b> (37 CFR 1.8a)	
I hereby certify that this paper (along with any paper referred to as being attached or enclosed) is being deposited with the United States Postal Service on the date shown below with sufficient postage as first class mail and in an envelope addressed to: Commissioner for Patents, PO Box 1450, Alexandria, VA. 22313-1450	
Date: <u>December 23, 2003</u>	<u>William R Gustavson</u> (Typed name of person mailing paper)
(Signature of person mailing paper)	

In response to the Office action mailed September 25, 2003, please amend the above-identified application as follows:

**Amendments to the Claims** are reflected in the listing of claims which begins on page 2 of this paper.

**Remarks/Arguments** begin on page 6 of this paper.